

In the Claims

Below is a list of current claims with status identifiers.

1. (Currently Amended): A battery pack for a wireless communication device comprising:
a housing adapted to be removably attachable to a wireless communication device that
can wirelessly connect to a global communication network (GCN), the housing including an
external shell defining an optical port therethrough and having an operational power interface
and a data interface disposed on an exterior surface thereof;

at least one battery disposed within the housing and electrically connected to the
operational power interface; and

an optical reader disposed within the housing for scanning an optical indicia through the
optical port and producing signals indicative of information encoded in the optical indicia, the
optical reader being operably connected to the data interface and powered by the battery;

whereby a wireless communication device attached to the battery pack can obtain
operational power from the operational power interface and can access signals indicative of the
information encoded in the optical indicia from the data interface;

whereby said optical reader is operable in response to scanning of the optical indicia to
cause a connection to be made to a location on the GCN through the wireless communication
device that is associated only with the optical indicia, wherein substantially all of the
functionality to both scan and effect a connection is contained within said housing.

2. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 1, wherein the optical reader further
comprises:

a radiant energy source for generating a radiant energy for illuminating the optical
indicia;

a photodetector for generating output electrical signals indicative of the radiant energy
incident thereon;

an optical system for directing the radiant energy from the radiant energy source through

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the optical port to the optical indicia, collecting the radiant energy reflected from the optical indicia to the optical port, and directing the collected radiant energy to the photodetector; and
 10 a decoder for decoding the output electrical signals of the photodetector and producing the signals indicative of the information encoded in the indicia.

3. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 2, wherein the radiant energy source produces light having a wavelength within the visible spectrum.

4. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 2, wherein the radiant energy source produces light having a wavelength within the infrared (IR) spectrum.

5. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 2, wherein the radiant energy source produces light having a wavelength shorter than visible light and longer than X-rays.

6. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 1, further comprising battery conditioning circuitry disposed within the housing and having a first electrical connection to the battery and a second electrical connection to the data interface, the battery conditioning circuitry monitoring operational battery characteristics through the first electrical connection and producing signals indicative
 5 of the charge condition of the battery on the second electrical connection, whereby a wireless communication device connected to the battery pack can access signals indicative of the operational battery characteristics on the data interface.

7. (Currently Amended): A battery pack in accordance with claim 1, the optical reader further ~~comprising~~ including:

a memory disposed within the housing and having a first code stored therein, the first code being associated with a group attribute of the battery pack; and

5 a processor disposed within the housing and operably connected to the memory and to the data interface;

wherein the processor can access the memory, retrieve the first code, and provide signals

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indicative of the first code at the data interface and create a data packet containing information extracted from the optical indicia.

8. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 7, wherein the group attribute associated with the first code is an identification of the distributor of the battery pack.

9. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 7, wherein the group attribute associated with the first code is an identification of the type of wireless communication device which the battery pack is configured to fit.

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10. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 7, wherein the memory further includes a second code stored therein, the second code being associated with an individual attribute of the battery pack, and wherein the processor can access the memory, retrieve the second code, and provide signals indicative of the second code at the data interface.

11. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 10, wherein the individual attribute associated with the second code is a serial number of the battery pack.

12. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 10, wherein the individual attribute associated with the second code is an identification of the user of the battery pack.

13. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 1, wherein the housing is adapted for attachment to a wireless communication device which is a cellular telephone.

14. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 1, wherein the housing is adapted for attachment to a wireless communication device which is a handheld PC.

15. (Original): A battery pack in accordance with claim 1, wherein the housing is adapted for attachment to a wireless communication device which is a personal digital assistant (PDA).

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